

VACCINATION.

Copy of a LETTER from the President of the National Vaccine Establishment, to Lord SIDMOUTH; dated 15 July 1814;—enclosing, *Report on the State of Vaccination in SWEDEN.*

N. V. E. Leicester Square,
15 July 1814.

MY LORD,

THE Board of the National Vaccine Establishment have received the enclosed Report “On the State of Vaccination in Sweden,” since they had the honour of communicating to your Lordship their Report of the State of Vaccination during the year 1813; and they respectfully desire that it may be submitted to the Honourable the House of Commons, in order that it may be printed, and subjoined as an APPENDIX to their Report.

(Signed) J. LATHAM,
President.

Jas Hervey, M. D.
Registrar.

To the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Sidmouth,
&c. &c. &c.

Report of the State of Vaccination in Sweden.

(Translated from the original in Swedish.)

ON the fourteenth of January 1814, Mr. Macmichael, an English gentleman, attended the Royal College of Health in Stockholm, and delivered to the College a copy of the Report of the National Vaccine Establishment in London, dated the 22d April 1813, and presented to Lord Sidmouth, Secretary of State for the Home Department; at the same time he requested, that a short Account of the progress of Vaccination in Sweden, and of the measures which had been adopted for its promotion, might be communicated to him, for the information of the British Parliament.

The Royal College had particular satisfaction in receiving Mr. Macmichael, and undertook to comply with his request so much the more readily, as it had the pleasure of numbering among its honorary Members the respectable name of Dr. Jenner, for whom it was reserved to demonstrate, by the most decisive experiments, the protective power of the Cow Pox against the most terrible and destructive contagion of the Small Pox; a pestilence, which, by means of this blessed discovery, must certainly be ultimately extirpated from the face of the Earth.

It was to be expected, from the excellent arrangements which the Kings of Sweden had adopted for somewhat more than half a century, in every department of Medical Science, that the incomparable Discovery of Doctor Jenner, like the Inoculation for the Small Pox at a former period*, should not only become an object of the most accurate investigation, but also, when approved by experience, be generally introduced and promoted by Rewards and established Regulations.

The Medical Practitioners of Sweden, who had already been informed, from the time of Dr. Jenner's first discovery, by means of a constant correspondence with the learned in other countries, of the expectations which were entertained of the success of experiments made with the Cow Pox, had great pleasure in learning that one of their colleagues, Dr. Gahn, a Member of the Royal College, had, towards the end of 1799, procured some Vaccine Matter, and obtained the most satisfactory result from inoculating with it. Another Swedish Physician,

* It is remarkable, that the celebrated Dr. David Schultzenheere, who was appointed as long ago as 1754 by the States of the Kingdom, to enquire into Sutton's and Dimsdale's mode of inoculating the Small Pox in England, was now the President of the Royal College of Health, and has been the most zealous, by means of his personal influence, in promoting the most salutary measures for the introduction of Vaccination.

Physician, now Professor of Medicine, Dr. Rosensköld, printed in 1801 a small Pamphlet, entitled, "To the Public on the Cow Pox;" and performed Vaccination with success in several parishes in Skåne. About the same time the undersigned also published a more detailed Account, with coloured figures, under the title, "The Small Pox may be extirpated;" and this Essay was distributed to all the Churches in the kingdom.

The Government, already attentive to the inestimable advantage, which the Inoculation of the Cow Pox seemed to promise, directed the College to examine Dr. Jenner's discovery with the greatest accuracy, for which the proper means were immediately afforded; and the College was ordered, after collecting the results, to present its Report to the King.

This Report, which fully confirmed the excellence of the Jennerian discovery, occasioned the salutary law which was first enacted in 1803, by which Vaccination was established throughout the Kingdom; and the College was commanded to promote its adoption by all possible means. The King was pleased to appropriate 900 dollars, spec. banco, to be divided into Premiums, which were to be distributed among such Medical men as could exhibit the greatest number of vaccinated persons.

A particular regulation was made for the Metropolis, imposing a fine of Three Dollars on any one, who should fail to announce to the Medical Officer of the district, the appearance of the contagion of the Small Pox; and in every such case, the person infected was to be carried to the Small Pox Hospital, where every measure was adopted for his being properly nursed; and the same precautions have been continued to the present time.

It was long a question, Whether new-born Children could be vaccinated with success, and whether the matter taken from them might be employed with as much security as if taken from Adults?

This doubt has been altogether removed, and in the General Lying-in Hospital all the Children are now vaccinated within nine days from the time of their birth; so that, by means of this progressive Vaccination, fresh matter remains constantly in existence.

The want of a sufficient supply of Vaccine matter for the extensive provinces of the Kingdom, was long an obstacle to the universality of Vaccination in Sweden. This obstacle no longer exists; since the Royal College of Health, in consequence of the humble representations which it made to the King, obtained, the adoption of a very effectual measure for this purpose, in the appointment of a particular Establishment for the general regulation of Vaccination throughout the Kingdom, which took place in the year 1812.

This Establishment consists of a Director, and several Inspectors of the Stations for Vaccination in the Provinces. The Director is a member of the Royal College of Health, whom the King has graciously commanded to receive and examine all reports, to answer all inquiries, to conduct the distribution of Vaccine matter, which is delivered, free of postage, to all persons who apply for it; and lastly to report to the College every thing relating to Vaccination that requires further regulation, and to propose to it, as proper persons to receive rewards, all those who appear to be the most deserving. He has also the immediate inspection of all the Medical men, who are appointed to conduct the business of the Stations, established in almost every Province; the progressive Vaccination performed at these Stations being calculated to maintain a constant supply of fresh matter, which is also distributed, free of postage, to those who require it; and their proceedings being registered in proper Catalogues and Journals.

In Stockholm, Three several Stations of this kind have been appointed, whence fresh matter may always be procured with certainty, if it happen to be wanting in any particular Province.

The Archbishop, Bishops, and the whole of the Clergy throughout the kingdom, having, from the time of the happy discovery of Vaccination, embraced it with the most distinguished zeal; and many of this respectable body having not only employed the most effectual means for the removal of vulgar prejudices against it, but having even actually practised Vaccination themselves; the King, assured of the continued exertions of the Clergy in the same cause, was pleased to direct, that every Minister should superintend the Progress of Vaccination within his Parish; and should be empowered to call to his assistance one or more Inspectors of Vaccination, according to circumstances, for the purpose of causing all Children to be properly vaccinated within the first year after their birth, and keeping proper documents of the performance of the operation. In each Parish or District there must be an accredited Vaccinator, whose duty is to perform Vaccination, and to give a Report of his Proceedings to the Royal College of Health.

The College has also published, by the King's command, a Book of Instructions for Vaccinators and Inspectors of Vaccination, which has been distributed gratis to all the Churches in the Kingdom. This Treatise, adapted to the use of the Public, affords an accurate knowledge of the true and false Cow Pox; of the varieties which most frequently occur in it; and of the cutaneous diseases, which occur so often in Sweden, very nearly resembling the Small Pox.

For the more effectual encouragement of the practice of Vaccination, the King has been graciously pleased to appoint rewards of two different kinds, Pecuniary Premiums and Honorary

VACCINATION IN SWEDEN.

Honorary Medals. The latter are distributed, commonly in Silver, but sometimes in Gold, to those who have particularly distinguished themselves. In all cases, those who have deserved rewards, are humbly pointed out to the King, by the College of Health; and his Majesty has reserved to himself the right of assigning the proportions in which those rewards shall be distributed. It is also in the King's name, and with a certain degree of publicity, that these marks of his approbation are bestowed.

For the honour of the Medical Profession in Sweden, it must not be forgotten, that although Inoculation for the Small Pox was one of the most lucrative branches of their private practice, and has been entirely superseded by the simple process of Vaccination, no one individual of the profession has raised any Obstacles against the Cow Pox; but every one has contributed to its advancement, by giving advice, information and assistance, to the utmost of his ability. No single Publication has appeared to call in question its high importance*, and its superiority to Variolous Inoculation; which has been entirely discontinued ever since the year 1802, rather by a tacit and universal consent, than in consequence of any Royal prohibition.

It may therefore be asserted, that the Small Pox, that equally disgusting and destructive Pestilence, which for many ages continued annually to send out of the world an immense number of young Children, is now, through the influence of Dr. Jenner's inestimable discovery, so perfectly extirpated in Sweden, that it never can become epidemic, even if at any time, notwithstanding all the orders and all the vigilance employed for its exclusion, the infection should make its appearance. Such, in the last twelve years, has been the effect of the King's wise and humane attention, of the unanimity and disinterestedness of the Medical Profession, of the patriotic zeal of the Clergy, of the good examples so promptly exhibited by the upper classes, and of the progress of information and civilization in the lower.

The undersigned, who has drawn up this short Account at the request of the Royal College of Health, has also the honour of sending with it, in the name of the College, a copy of the Book of Instructions, and an impression in silver of the Honorary Medal, which was struck by the King's command, under the direction of the College, and which is distributed in the King's name, for the promotion of Vaccination.

Stockholm, 10th February 1814.

FR. HEDIN, M. D.

First Physician to the King, Medical
Counsellor, &c. &c.

* The answer which the undersigned returned the 1st Nov. 1801, to a Letter addressed to him, by the Vaccine Committee of the Society of Medicine at Paris, and which is inserted in the second Report of that Committee, cannot justly be considered as a Publication of this kind. It was not quite three months after this time, that having acquired perfect confidence from inoculating a Cow, with the Cow Pox, and transferring the operation to the human subject, he published the before-mentioned Essay, entitled, "The Small Pox may be extirpated."

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Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be printed,
19 July 1814.
